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## **News Release - 1991-01-12a**

E. De la Garza

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# news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- 12 January 1991

Rep Kika de la Garza today submitted the following statement to the House chamber for inclusion in the Congressional Record on the crisis in the Persian Gulf:

Mr Speaker and my colleagues, arriving at this point in the discussion of this issue has been very difficult and painful. I would like to respectfully share with you my views at this time.

I support the President. I support the troops in Operation Desert Shield. But I am deeply disturbed at the events and the persons who have led us to this point in our history. I have and I will continue to support our troops and will support all efforts to give them the necessary tools to fulfill their mission. Having said that, the most important support we can give them is to do our utmost to keep them from having to use these tools.

I am not prepared at this time to accept the fact that all of the resources of the free world through the United Nations have failed in this instance and that the only recourse is war. What a shame and how sad if this is true that in 1991 the world admits failure for a peaceful, diplomatic resolution of the Kuwait affair. I support the United Nations resolutions -- that's no problem -- but do you know what they say? Get the Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. That's all they say.

I now ask, is the Emir of Kuwait worth dying for? NO. Is the Emir of Kuwait worth one American life? NO. I condemn the actions of Mr Saddam Hussein, and I agree he is a menace to that area of the world and possibly beyond. I think that what he has done should not be the order of the day, but under the U N resolutions we drive him out of Kuwait. Again, that's all they say. What then, what have we gained? They do not speak of chemical weapons or nuclear weapons. All they say is he's a bad guy and should be driven out of Kuwait. Having done that, what have we gained, I respectfully ask?

The Hamilton-Gephardt resolution does not prohibit the President from acting. All it says is if should all else fail then Mr President you tell us that's the case and we will act together. That's all it says, but let's do it together. Mr President, as the elected representatives of the people, is that too much to ask? I support you Mr President, but my conscience and my district demand that we give peace a chance first. Should that not be humanly possible and war is the ultimate need I would be with you and will pray that it be achieved with the least loss of life possible for it will be our young people in great part that will bear the burden. God bless and protect them.

With all my mind, body and soul I pray that what we do here today be worthy of our service as representatives of the people of the United States, our troops abroad and our own conscience. Thank you.

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Note: Bold face type reflects actual floor remarks.